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NO. 3308

WEATHER—FAIR AND COOLER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1915.

ONE CENT. In Washington and Potomac Suburbs. Elsewhere Two Cents.

WOULD TAX DISTRICT AS OTHER CITIES ARE, ENDING "HALF" LAW

Commissioners Present Elaborate Arguments Favoring Change in Fiscal Relations With Government.

U. S. THE GAINER AT PRESENT

Pockets Surplus After Appropriations Are Made—Organic Law a "Legislative Fiction" Anyhow, Says Brownlow.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.

The arguments of the two civilian members of the Board of District Commissioners virtually were completed yesterday before the Select Committee of Congress, investigating the fiscal relations between the District and the Federal government.

Commissioners Newman and Brownlow are in accord in their recommendations for a change from the existing "half-and-half" plan, and in the nature of the change recommended to the committee. Maj. Kutz, the Engineer Commissioner, probably will present his argument today. Commissioners Newman and Brownlow recommend the adoption of what is tantamount to the proposal of Representative Robert N. Page, of North Carolina, made at the suggestion of Representative Ben Johnson, chairman of the House District Committee. It involves:

The abolition of the half-and-half responsibility imposed upon Congress by the existing law;

The taxation of the District on the basis of local taxation in comparable cities;

Supplementing, from Federal revenues, the amount so raised each year up to an amount sufficient to meet such part of the Commissioners' estimates as shall be approved by Congress.

GIVE REASONS FOR CHANGE

Although the plan involves the indeterminate feature of Federal contribution, which proved so disastrous to the District prior to the enactment of the law of 1878, the Commissioners argued that the results would be different for several reasons.

In the first place, it was argued, prior to 1878 Congress had no responsibility imposed upon it for the disastrous conditions resulting from neglect because the District raised and expended its own revenues, and was regarded as a municipality, of which the Federal government was the tenant.

In the second place, by virtue of the act of 1878 Congress has been brought to a realization of its responsibility and has gotten the "habit" of appropriating for the District.

Finally, it was argued, with the present form of government retained, Congress could not escape the responsibility, as it would be called upon to administer the affairs of the District as at present.

Would Affect Form Only. According to Commissioners Newman and Brownlow, the change would affect the form rather than the substance of the present methods of appropriating for the expenses of the District, inasmuch as, according to Mr. Brownlow, the half-and-half plan has been purely "a legislative fiction" ever since the rate of taxation was fixed by Congress.

It was argued that the intent of the organic act was that Congress should determine each year how much should be expended on the District, and should then levy upon the District taxes sufficient to make one-half of that amount. In practice, according to the civilian Commissioners, the tax levy has been rigid through the fixing of a certain rate by Congress, and as a result Congress has determined how much it would authorize to be expended upon the District, and has then used whatever District revenues were available toward this expenditure, or, when sufficient revenues were not available, has loaned the District enough money from the Treasury at 2 per cent interest to take care of the deficit for that year.

U. S. Takes District Surplus.

In recent years the revenues of the District have exceeded one-half the amount required to be spent, and in the future this excess will increase. All surpluses of this nature are turned into the miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury instead of being held to the credit of the District. Thus, the practice of Congress has been the same as it would be under the method of appropriating recommended by Commissioners Newman and Brownlow, according to the arguments of the latter, which are presented in detail in another column.

Before presenting his treatment of the half-and-half controversy, Mr. Newman spent about two hours expounding the sensational charges of underassessment made by Herbert J. Browne, Mr. Newman's retort was convincing and comprehensive and leaves the committee little of Mr. Browne's brief to consider beyond his advocacy of the application of the single-tax theory to local conditions. As Mr. Newman is himself a single taxer, there was little ground for argument on that point, except that Mr. Newman informed the committee that he favored a gradual application, to be brought about by the reduction of assessments on improvements 10 per cent a year for five years.

Members of the committee have indicated, that, while interested in the discussion of the single-tax theory to which they have been treated, they do not consider themselves authorized to recommend any change in the theory of taxation here. Mr. Newman's presentation effectively vindicated the method of taxation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.

TO RESCUE SHIP IN DISTRESS.

U. S. Warship Answering SOS Call of American Steamer.

The following was received yesterday by the Navy Department from Admiral Winslow on the cruiser San Diego: "About 6 o'clock this morning received distress call from American steamer Fort Bragg, bound Guaymas to San Francisco, stating on rocks at Palmita Point, 30 miles northeast of Cape San Lucas, U. S. S. San Diego then near Treasurers Islands, 250 miles distant. Have been steaming full speed to her relief, and will reach her about 8 o'clock tonight. Last reports from steamer Fort Bragg state she has 22 crew, 24 passengers aboard. Heavy surf running. Taking water. Fire flooded. Has line ashore, landing passengers on beach. Her crew will stand by ship long as possible. All passengers and crew then reported safe. We have heard nothing from her since 10 a. m. Probably filled with water and going to pieces. Passengers and crew have reached shore safely."

MAY BE LYMAN'S SKELETON.

Bones in Woods Thought to Be Those of Missing Tire Maker.

Philadelphia, Nov. 5.—In the belief that the skeleton found yesterday afternoon by deer hunters in a strip of woods two miles from Hammonton, N. J., may be that of J. Walter Lyman, general manager of the Republic Tire Company, who disappeared more than two years ago, Jackson, a city hall detective, went to Hammonton today to investigate. At the time of his disappearance a nationwide search was made by members of the Automobile Trade Association and when no trace of him was found it was believed he had been waylaid and murdered by robbers.

ASSERT RIGHT TO FAIR RATE

Washington Merchants Take Railroad Equity Case to the I. C. C.

DISCRIMINATION IS SHOWN IN FAVOR OF VIRGINIA CITIES

Trade Bodies and Individual Firms Press Their Claims Through Counsel.

A forceful plea for the establishment of equitable commodity railroad rates to and from the National Capital was made before the Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday afternoon by the merchants of Washington.

The complainants were the Chamber of Commerce, the Retail Merchants' Association, other trade organizations, and about 150 individual merchants and business houses. The defendants were thirty-eight railroads engaged in the handling of freight bound to and from the city.

The merchants request that the District be granted by the railroads commodity rates now enjoyed by Virginia cities and towns, such as Richmond and Petersburg. They showed that Virginia is granted special rates on 50 commodities, whereas the District has special rates on only twelve of these. The commodities cover a broad field, including articles ranging from wearing apparel to building materials.

Long Haul Cheaper.

The merchants produced evidence to the effect that goods are shipped from northern points, such as New York, to Virginia points via Washington cheaper than goods destined only for the National Capital, the shorter haul. They even showed that on some commodities goods can be shipped from New York through Washington to Virginia points and then back again to Washington cheaper than goods can be shipped to Washington alone.

Decision in Month.

The railroads admitted the facts, but argued that the anomalous situation was justified because of the keen competition in Virginia between railroads and steamship lines. The merchants combatted this argument by pointing out that there really was but little competition, as many of the steamship lines virtually were owned by the railroads. They also pointed out that competition between railroads and steamship lines was no keener in Virginia than in the District. In support of this assertion they called attention to the fact that the Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Company has a store-door free delivery system, a facility not furnished by the railroads.

Chapin Brown appeared as attorney for the Chamber of Commerce and Attorney Maurice D. Rosenberg represented the Retail Merchants' Association. The two attorneys jointly represented the 150 merchants and business houses. Attorney Frederick McKenny, of the Pennsylvania Railroad legal force, appeared for the defendants. The hearing was before the whole commission of seven members. A decision in the case is expected within several weeks or a month.

Condemn Forty for Killing Officer.

Amsterdam, Nov. 5.—The Central News says it has received a dispatch from Frankfurt which states that forty German soldiers were condemned to death at Lihau recently in connection with the shooting of an officer. The men were causing in a cafe, says the report, when the officer ordered them to be silent. One of the soldiers shot him dead.

Snow Falls in Adirondacks.

Utica, N. Y., Nov. 5.—Hunters returning from the Adirondacks today reported a snow fall of three inches in the vicinity of Big Moose, after midnight this morning. This is the first real snow of the year.

Baltimore and Ohio to Baltimore—\$1.50

round trip every Saturday and Sunday; good returning until 9 a. m. Monday.—Adv.

Baltimore and Ohio—Pimlico Races

Baltimore, Nov. 1 to 13. Trains Every Hour on the Hour to Camden Station. Street cars direct to track.—Adv.

GARRISON GIVES DETAILS OF HIS BIG ARMY PLAN

Total Cost of Scheme for First Year to Be \$182,717,036.

U. S. WILL HELP MILITIA

War Secretary Points Out Difficulties of Raising Large Force.

WOULD USE RAILROAD WORKERS

Employers Urged to Encourage Bridge Builders and Engineers to Aid Movement.

Secretary of War Lindley M. Garrison gave out here last night a statement showing the details of the plan for the defense of the nation which the administration will propose to Congress.

The system will provide, when in complete operation, a regular army of 141,843 officers and enlisted men, costing \$127,234,559.70; a national guard of 129,000 officers and men, costing the Federal government \$10,000,000, and a "continental army" of 400,000 officers and men, costing \$45,000,000.

Accumulations of reserve material, sea coast defenses and other provisions make the total cost of the plan for the first year \$182,717,036.08; second year, \$212,815,879.70; third and fourth years, each, \$228,315,979.70. Thereafter, the plan will be in full operation with the cost \$292,234,559.70.

Can't Control Schools.

Secretary Garrison admits that his plan is not ideal from a strictly military point of view, but thinks it is as good as could be devised when regard is had for constitutional and legal provisions and American institutions and sentiments. He says:

"The essential, the imperative thing, is to make such wise military preparations and take such wise precautions as are presently possible. These reasons dispose of many suggestions which are entirely worthy of consideration from a military standpoint, but which could not be made effective under existing conditions. Military systems based upon universal military service, upon conscription, or upon national control of the public school system, fall under this head as also do any policy which can only be made operative by a constitutional amendment or by identical, contemporaneous legislation in the forty-eight States of the Union.

In explaining why the new continental army is necessary he says:

"U. S. Will Help Militia. There is no legal way that the National Guard can, in time of peace, be governed, officered, or trained by the national government, and there is no legal way, excepting by volunteering, that it can be made available to the nation."

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR.

WIRELESS PHONE USED BY DANIELS TO ISSUE ORDER

His Voice Sent Through Air From Capital to New York Navy Yard.

HEARD ALSO IN BOSTON

Arlington Radio Tower Employed in Marvelous Experiment.

CONVERSED WITH GREAT EASE

First Official Use of Invention—Secretary Lansing, Navy Officers, and Their Wives Present.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels yesterday issued the first naval order ever transmitted by wireless telephone.

To demonstrate to the Secretary the vast possibilities of the usefulness of the wireless telephone in the naval service, engineers of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Western Electric Company arranged for communication between Mr. Daniels' office in the Navy Department building and that of Rear Admiral Usher, commander of the navy yard at New York. Conversation was carried on with the greatest ease, and Mr. Daniels transmitted to Admiral Usher this official order:

"Report as soon as practicable after arrival of the New York how soon repairs recommended can be completed."

Confirmed Over Land Wires.

By telephone communication over land line from New York to Washington Admiral Usher acknowledged receipt of this order and promised the desired report.

The demonstration in Mr. Daniels' office was also the occasion of the first woman using the new means of communication. Mrs. Daniels, wife of the Secretary, conversed with Admiral Usher. The communication by wireless telephone with New York was by means of the giant naval radio station at Arlington. Secretary Daniels' voice was transmitted by the ordinary telephone line to the apparatus at the Arlington station, which automatically transferred the vibrations over the wire to the wireless transmitter.

An hour before the conversations with New York took place, Capt. W. H. G. Bullard, superintendent of the Naval Radio Service, and the naval officer who has been most closely associated with the experiments at Arlington with the wireless telephony, notified nearby naval stations of what was planned, and asked them to listen for Washington. Late this afternoon the captain had received reports from the radio stations at Norfolk, Charleston, Boston and Chicago, all saying that they heard the conversation from Washington.

Lofty Monument to Miss Cavell.

Ottawa, Ont., Nov. 5.—Mount Robinson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, will be renamed Mount Cavell, as an eternal monument to the memory of Edith Cavell, the English nurse executed by the Germans at Brussels.

Greek Revolution Feared; Venizelos' Life Is in Danger

By R. MACKENZIE.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Rome, Nov. 5.—According to wireless uncensored news from Athens King Constantine is furious at the resignation of the cabinet and is perplexed to find a solution.

The German minister and Prince von Buelow's son, who is attached to the German legation, practically reside at the palace and are in constant consultation with the King, who is in direct wireless communication with the Kaiser. Zaimis spent the day at the palace, where pro-German politicians were summoned to confer with the King.

Venizelos' life is considered in danger. The Germans are intriguing against him and it is feared they would not hesitate to bring about his suppression. Sensational developments, not even excluding revolution, are likely to occur momentarily.

KING ACCEPTS ZAIMIS ACTION

Constantine Forced to Allow Entire Cabinet to Resign.

PREMIER OPENLY REFUSES TO ENGAGE IN POLITICS

Says He Accepted Portfolio Only Provisionally to "Ease Situation."

BULLETIN.

London, Nov. 5 (Saturday).—A dispatch to the Times from Athens says that Premier Zaimis, having reiterated his refusal to remain in office, King Constantine finally has accepted the resignation of the entire Zaimis cabinet.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Athens, Nov. 5.—M. Zaimis has been asked by King Constantine to retain the portfolio of premier, but has refused on the ground that he accepted the office only provisionally in the first place in order to ease the situation. M. Zaimis has openly expressed his determination not to engage actively in internal politics.

May Vote on Intervention.

Efforts continue, however, to induce Zaimis to remain in office at least long enough to conduct the elections. If these efforts are successful the elections probably will be fixed for December 12. It is suggested that in the event of dissolution the Venizelists will abstain from an election campaign as a protest against political developments during mobilization.

It is understood that the King has expressed the intention of calling on the country to vote upon the clear issue of intervention by Greece on the side of the entente.

The King has shown his attitude very clearly by appointing Gen. Yanakitsas, who precipitated the cabinet crisis, as his chief aid de camp.

In the debate in the chamber yesterday, former Premier Venizelos said: "The government's foreign policy lacks our confidence. Moreover, we consider it fatal to the country. In recent days we have felt more deeply still the pain of seeing our country menaced by our eternal enemy who will turn on us after having crushed Serbia."

"Arms Saved Greece."

"We are saddened by the thought that tomorrow we shall be alone, without friends or allies, in the face of a formidable enemy."

Minister of Communications Theodoris after reviewing the foreign policy of M. Venizelos declared that the latter, during the days of last February, was heading the Greek fleet and the Greek army to utter ruin. The minister further asserted that subsequent developments justified the opinion that armed neutrality has saved Greece from a catastrophe.

M. Venizelos granted the opposition's view of his policy at that time and dwelt upon the benefits that might have come to Greece if her neutrality had not been maintained.

"Our national ideal," he said, "have been rendered impossible by your policy. In serving involuntarily a German political group we not only expose ourselves to the danger of aiding Bulgarian aspirations, but the growth of Turkish power. Tomorrow the war will be inevitable."

Britain's War Cost \$27,500,000 a Day. London, Nov. 5.—It is now costing England \$27,500,000 a day to carry on the war, according to the parliamentary correspondent of the Daily Chronicle. He says that the financial situation is causing much uneasiness.

SERBIAN RETREAT CUT BY TEUTONS' ACTION; FRENCH LINE PIERCED

Hard Pressed Armies Threatened from West and North When Austrians Launch Attack On Montenegrins in Herzegovina.

GERMANS TAKE FOES' TRENCHES

Portion of French First Line Captured in Fighting Around Hill 199, According to Paris Admission—Russ Fleet Shells Courland Coast.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Nov. 5.—The Austro-Germans are pushing their advance into Serbia at a faster pace, and today Berlin reports progress along the whole line, with the capture of 2,700 Serbians. The circle of steel about the harassed Serbian armies is being drawn closer, and a new move has been started to cut off their retreat through Montenegro, if they should attempt to seek refuge here. The Austrians have begun an attack on the Montenegrins east of Trebinje, in Herzegovina, thus threatening them from the west as well as from the north.

Serbian plans for a retreat in that direction are made still more difficult by the junction between the army of Gen. von Koevess and the Austrians, who have penetrated Serbia north of Visegrad.

A severe defeat of the French forces northeast of Pilep by the Bulgarians is reported by Berlin, which states that part of the French army was routed and the rest made prisoners. The first of the French prisoners are reported at Kustendil, in Bulgaria.

The French official report tonight, however, which carries operations to November 3, says:

"Army of the Orient: Notwithstanding a violent preparation by the German artillery, the Bulgarians failed utterly November 3 on all their attempts against our bridgeheads at Krivolak. On the same day we carried the villages of Memisti and Kajali, east of Rabrovo, and attacked the frontier ridges. The Bulgarians have shown great artillery activity and have violently bombarded Valandovo. The action engaged by our troops north of Rabrovo still continues."

Slightly Hurt in Three-Story Fall. Mrs. Smoot's Thigh Dislocated When She Alights on Pavement.

A woman weighing 140 pounds fell thirty-five feet from a third-story window to the pavement yesterday afternoon and escaped practically uninjured. She was Mrs. A. H. Smoot, 32, a roomer at 415 R street northwest.

At Casualty Hospital, an examination revealed that her only injury was a slight dislocation of the right thigh. So far as is known, Mrs. Smoot has no relatives in the city. According to Miss Baker, daughter of Mrs. J. S. Baker, th landlady, she formerly lived with Mrs. Raymond Kleindienst at 304 R street northwest. When the Kleindiensts moved away, said Miss Baker, they left Mrs. Smoot alone in the house. Thursday, Mrs. Smoot rented two rooms on the third floor of Mrs. Baker's house and moved in her baggage.

After being treated at Casualty Hospital she was sent to Washington Asylum for observation as to her mental condition.

It is expected that these troops will cross into Bulgaria south of Strumitsa. It is a question whether the hard-driven Serbians can hold out until reinforcements reach them.

First Line Pierced. The movement into Serbia of a large British army is taken here to mean that Russia has completed arrangements to advance into Bulgaria in force from the north. The German demand that Roumania intern two Russian torpedo boats now at Turnu Severin, on the Danube, has been refused by Roumania on the ground that navigation of the river is free. This ruling apparently recognizes Russia's right to send troops to Bulgaria on the Danube. Probably a large army will be landed at Silistria.

A fierce struggle is still raging for the possession of Hill No 199 north of Massiges, north of Champagne, with the Germans maintaining their positions in the recently captured trenches, it is admitted in Paris tonight.

Strong attacks made behind clouds of asphyxiating gas and under cover of streams of flaming liquids have failed, however, to gain ground for the Germans, except in portions of the French first line.

Russian warships again are harassing the Germans along the Courland coast. According to an official statement received tonight from Petrograd, severe fire has been directed against the Teuton position at Schlock by the Czar's fleet in the Baltic. These sea operations, designed to lighten the pressure against Riga, have proved successful before.

Law Praises Canadian Troops.

London, Nov. 5.—A Bonar Law, the British Colonial Secretary, sent a telegram to the Duke of Connaught, Governor General of Canada today, expressing his appreciation for the offer to increase the Canadian contingent at the front. Mr. Law spoke of the gallant fighting qualities of the Canadians who are making common cause with the Englishmen.

Boy, Hit by Wilson's Car, Unhurt. New York, Nov. 5.—President Wilson's automobile ran into Maurice Parsi, an 8-year-old Italian boy, at Thirty-second street near the Pennsylvania station this afternoon. The boy was knocked down. The automobile stopped and the President looked out. The lad ran to the sidewalk, yelled he was not hurt and the auto sped on. The President left at 2:35 for Washington.

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